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ASHBURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1953

Mr Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for
the year 1953.

The general state of health in Ashburton is very satisfactory, and apart from one small outbreak of whooping cough at the latter end of the year, there has been no serious illness.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District (in aerea).....	6,781
Population - Mid 1953.....	2,680
Population in 1952 Census.....	2,695
Number of inhabited houses.....	1,020
Rateable value on 1st. April, 1953.....	£. 15,571
Rateable value on 31st December, 1953.....	£. 15,679
Product of penny rate (as at 1st. April, 1952)	£. 59

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the statistics which follow it will be noted that the Birth and Death rates are calculated as 'Crude' and 'Corrected'.

The 'Crude' rate represents the actual figures obtained by arithmetical proportion.

The 'Corrected' or 'Standardised' rate takes into account the difference in the distribution of the various age groups and the proportion of the sexes in Ashburton as compared with the rest of the country and gives a truer comparison between the state of affairs in this Urban District and that in the larger units.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	15	24	39
Illegitimate	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
	<u>15</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>39</u>
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population.	-		14.55
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population.			15.86
Crude Live Birth rate for the Administrative County of Devon.			13.4
Corrected Live Birth rate for the Administrative County of Devon.			14.74
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales.			15.5

Still Births.

Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births (Devon)	26.67
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births (England & Wales)	22.4

Deaths.

During the year the average age at death from all causes was found to be 66.55 years. The average age of all male deaths was 66.85 and for femalee deaths 66.30 years.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	20	19	39
Crude death rate per 1000 population.....			14.55
Corrected death rate per 1000 population.....			11.50
Crude death rate for the Administrative County of Devon.....			14.17
Corrected death rate for the Administrative County of Devon.....			10.77
Death Rate per 1000 total population England & Wales.....			11.4

Infant Mortality.

(Death of Infants under One year of Age).....NIL.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

(Death of Infants under Four weeks of age)..... NIL.
Neo-natal mortality for the Administrative
County of Devon.....17.92
Neo-natal mortality for England and Wales.....17.70

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths occurred during the past year.
A total of six cases occurred in the Administrative County
of Devon, representing a rate of 0.88 per thousand.

AGE AT DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Infants under 4 weeks	-	-
Infants under 1 year		
1 -	-	-
5 -	-	4
15 -	-	-
25 -	2	2
45 -	4	2
65 -	8	8
75 and over	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	20	19

Total:- 39

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
All causes	20	19
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	-
Malignant neoplasm breast	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	3
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	5
Coronary disease, angina	3	1
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1
Other heart disease	2	2
Other circulatory disease	3	1
Bronchitis	3	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other defined and ill- defined diseases	-	2
	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year, five samples of the main town water supply were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. All samples fell into the Ministry Grade 1, with the exception of a single sample which fell into Grade 1V - this instance was quickly rectified.

Samples taken from various other sources gave varying results.

SEWAGE.

The problem of sewage disposal in Ashburton is still in the melting pot, but there emerge two possible solutions. Firstly, an amalgamation with Buckfastleigh, or alternatively an improvement of the existing method of land irrigation. The final decision rests largely on the directions of the Ministry.

HOUSING

No new Council houses were completed in the past year. Seven private houses were built and plans have been approved for several more.

There are many old properties in a neglected state which are not really fit for human habitation, and action will need to be taken in the near future to ensure either their demolition or extensive repair.

DR. R. BELLAMY.

Medical Officer of Health.

